The price of APM gas for consumers in the North-East region has been revised to Rs. 1920/MCM effective 1.7.2005.

The price of gas for consumers other than those stated above is market related.

Recognition of Workers' Union

2309. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the workers and employees working in Indian Oil Corporation (Assam Oil Division) have demanded recognition of union through secret ballot;

(b) whether his Ministry has received individually signed mass petitions from workers in this respect; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) A majority of the workers (1536 out of 2053) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division) are members of the Assam Oil Company (AOC) Labour Union, which is a recognised union. However, the Mineral Oil Workers Union (MOWU), another Trade Union, which is mainly a contractors' workmen union, have claimed to be having membership of regular workmen of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division) MOWU has demanded verification of membership through secret ballot.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

Allocation of kerosene to Chhattisgarh

†2310. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which allotment of Kerosene oil of Public Distribution System is made to State;

(b) whether Kerosene oil is being allotted to the States on prescribed norms if not, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.